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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 20 | Humidity 61% Light rain Sensex 83,938 | Nifty 25,722 | Gold 1,21,284 | Silver 1,48,399 | Dollar 88.79 | Euro 102.37 | GBP 116.96

BUMP AHEAD

Citizens watch helplessly as latest deadline to make city pothole-free too passes us by like countless others with not much change on ground

PAGE 3

CASE LOAD

Scheme of issuing A khata to B khata properties launched, but no relief for owners of property under litigation

PAGE 5

Police data suggests not a single domestic help background check has been recorded on Seva Sindhu portal from 2024 till date. As verification is not mandatory, households prefer to fall back on word-of-mouth recommendations

WANT HELP? DO YOUR HOMEWORK

Portal offers streamlined process, say officials

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Even as thefts involving domestic workers continue to be reported in the city, an alarming number of households still avoid conducting basic background checks before hiring help. Police officials point out that this gap in verification is leaving residents increasingly vulnerable to preventable security risks.

According to Karnataka State Police data, not a single domestic help background check has been recorded on the Seva Sindhu portal from 2024 till date. In 2023, only eight such verifications were carried out, an extremely low number for a city with lakhs of households employing helps, cooks, drivers, and caretakers. A senior police official said, "It's very rare for people to do background checks before hiring servants."

Domestic theft cases have seen a sharp increase this year, with 312 incidents reported so far. A senior police official explained that individuals with previous criminal records or dubious backgrounds often find employment easily

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"Many homeowners do not consider verification important because they pay relatively low salaries around ₹5,000 to ₹7,000 and domestic workers often do not stay for long periods

—Police official

Happy hours

City houses 756 of state's 923 pubs, with number of establishments soaring by 278% in five years

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In Bengaluru, the number of pubs has surged by a staggering 278% over the past five years. According to the state's excise department, the city now has 756 pubs, up from just 200 in 2018. With weekend lifestyle catching on, spurred by the city's IT industry, the demand for pubs too skyrocketed.

According to data, currently, there are 923 pubs across the state of which 756 are in Bengaluru. Of these, only 57 operate independently, while the rest align with current regulations. The highest concentration of pubs can be found in tech-heavy areas like Koramangala and Indiranagar, which together boast 120 pubs. Additionally, there are 38 pubs located in Bengaluru's outskirts.

Anekal has highest number of CL-7 licenses

As of February 28, 2025, Anekal has the highest number of CL-7 (Hotel and Lodging) licences in Bengaluru, with a total of 41 establishments, followed by Yeshwanthpur with 44. Byatarayanapura holds the third position with 37 licences, while Yelahanka follows closely with 36.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Giggle fest
After a massive world tour, Samay Raina is back to his homeground, with a brand new show, ready to take the audience on a laughter-filled journey. **Where: Good Shepherd Auditorium, Shanthala Nagar; When: November 21, 4 pm**

02 Shop away
'Salaam Souk', hosted this year with the theme of 'Habibi, welcome to Dubai', inspired by the glamour, opulence and vibrancy of the Middle East, presents an exclusive shopping experience. **Where: Jayamahal Palace; When: November 8, 1 pm**

03 World of design
DesignUp25 — India's leading design and innovation festival —is bringing its 9th edition themed 'The Design Currency'. The three-day festival brings together top global and Indian design leaders from Adobe, Canva, JPMorgan Chase, Netflix, and more, exploring how design drives value in business, technology, and society. **When: November 3 to 5, 10 am to 7 pm**

04 Groove along
Adnan Sami will be taking the stage for an unforgettable performance, set to take the audience on a melodious journey. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: November 9, 7 pm**

05 Fun learning
Eklavya School invites children aged 2–10 and their families to the Eureka Eklavya Festival, a day of hands-on fun, creativity, and learnin. **Where: Eklavya Early Years, Yelahanka; When: November 8, 10 am to 4 pm**

Community steps up to ease traffic duty

Citizens come together to fund construction of three traffic police chowkis near Cooke Town; police officials say booths will help them during harsh weather conditions

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Traffic police chowki near Machilibetta GLR

The installation of chowkis at key locations in and around Cooke Town, with support from residents and donors, is an example of cooperation between the community and traffic police to improve traffic monitoring during peak hours. Traffic constables are often expected to manage traffic efficiently, without regard for whether they have access to basic amenities at junctions. It is well known that many traffic junctions lack chowkis, which could provide some relief to traffic police constables during the monsoon and summer. Like anyone else, they need proper shelter from rain and a place to rest during peak heat.

Realising the need for chowkis with basic amenities, members of Cooke Town Residents Association and a few donors came forward to provide three chowkis for traffic police constables assigned to regulate traffic at Dr Rajkumar Underpass near Lingarajapuram, Davis Road Junction, and Machilibetta Ground Level Reservoir (GLR) on Maruti Sevanagar Main Road.

"I have to thank members of Cooke Town Residents Association and donors for their contributions to install three chowkis for the benefit of traffic police. The chowki at Machilibetta GLR is ready for inauguration," said Albert R, a member of the Managing Committee of Bengaluru Eshanya Mahavedike, adding that work is underway to install chowkis at Davis Road Junction and Dr Rajkumar Underpass.

Chowki at Machilibetta GLR is reportedly ready for inauguration while work is underway to install chowkis at Davis Road Junction and Dr Rajkumar Underpass

Each chowki can accommodate four police constables at a time and includes provisions for a fan, lighting, and seating. "The chowki will be a great help for us. It will provide shelter for us whenever it rains," said a police constable regulating traffic at Machilibetta GLR Junction, while also expressing gratitude to the nearby apartment owners' association for allowing access to their restroom facilities for basic needs. The residents and social activists opine that Machilibetta Junction needs a traffic signal. "There is a provision for the traffic signal here but the authorities concerned are yet to provide it. Traffic signals not only regulate traffic but also help traffic police," said Bengaluru Eshanya Mahavedike Organising Secretary Muniraj Sriramalu.

Emphasising the need for having a comfortable chowki, a police constable managing the flow of traffic at Davis Road Junction, said the existing chowki is congested. "The proposed chowki will be useful and it can accommodate more than one police constable," said the police constable.

A resident, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the absence of a traffic police chowki at Dr Rajkumar Underpass contributes to frequent traffic snarls. "There are occasions where motorists used to indulge in fisticuffs at the underpass. Now, I expect no traffic jams at the underpass," said the resident.

Murali S, President, Bengaluru Eshanya Mahavedike, said that resident welfare associations have decided to join hands with traffic police to end traffic woes.

Weaving stories and connections

Convo marked its Beta launch with a vibrant afternoon gathering titled 'The Saree Convo', held on October 29 at The Bier Library in Sarjapur. The event brought together women from diverse backgrounds — entrepreneurs, artists, professionals, and storytellers — united by the elegance of the saree and the power of authentic conversation. From heirloom Kanjeevarams to experimental drapes, each saree carried a personal narrative. But it was the candid conversations, centered on identity, reinvention, and self-expression, that defined the event's spirit. "Convo is about rediscovering the joy of real conversations," said Dipanwita, Co-Founder of Convo. Her fellow Co-Founder, Asha, added, "We created the space we were always looking for — where meaningful connections happen by design." **— BMB**

Backward Classes Commission speeds up data analysis; report expected by year-end

With the state's Social and Educational Survey concluding on August 31, the Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission has begun preparations to analyse the vast data collected across the state. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had earlier advised the commission to submit its final report by the end of December, raising anticipation over whether the findings will reach the government before year-end.

The survey covered 6.13 crore residents, achieving nearly 89 per cent completion, while 4.22 lakh households refused participation, and 34.49 lakh homes were found locked during visits. Districts such as Mandya, Tumakuru, Haveri, Chitradurga, Chikkamagaluru, Udupi, Gadag, Koppal, Davanagere, and Chamarajanagar recorded over 100 per cent completion due to extended enumeration, while Bengaluru South reported the lowest coverage at 86.34 per cent.

Commission sources said that meter readers helped identify unregistered households, resulting in a higher-than-expected completion rate in 10 districts. The data collected will now undergo extensive analysis to assess social, educational, and economic conditions across Karnataka. Commission Chairman Madhusudhan Naik confirmed that self-enumeration through the online portal remains open until November 10, and efforts are underway to complete the data analysis within two months. The process involves detailed evaluation and cross-verification of responses to ensure accuracy before submitting the final report to the government. **— BMB**

Bengaluru among three Karnataka districts chosen for India's first digital census trial

The countdown to India's first fully digital census has begun, and Bengaluru will play a key role in testing the new system. Starting November 10, the Centre will launch a pilot survey in three Karnataka districts — Bengaluru Urban, Uttara Kannada, and Chamarajanagar — to test and refine the digital data collection process before the national rollout.

Sources said that in Bengaluru, the pilot will be conducted specifically in JP Park Ward under the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). In Uttara Kannada, it will cover 46 villages in Supa (Joida) taluk, and in Chamarajanagar, 27 villages in Gundlupet taluk. The trial aims to evaluate the app's performance across both urban areas and regions with limited mobile connectivity. The pilot will run for 20 days and focus purely on testing the system's efficiency; the collected data will not be part of the official census. **— BMB**

Woman stabbed to death by paramour in Pillanna Garden

A 40-year-old woman was stabbed to death by her male friend near a government school in Pillanna Garden under the KG Halli Police Station limits on Friday.

The victim, Renuka, a resident of Pillanna Garden, worked as a domestic help. The accused, Kutti (43), who works in a private firm and lives in KG Halli, has been taken into custody.

According to the police, Renuka and Kutti had been in a relationship for some time. Renuka, who was divorced, had reportedly been pressuring Kutti, a married man, to marry her as she no longer wanted their relationship to remain a secret. Kutti, however, opposed her demand.

On Friday, as Renuka was returning home from work, Kutti called her to meet near the government school, saying he wanted to talk. Moments after she arrived, Kutti allegedly stabbed her seven to eight times in full public view before fleeing the spot. Locals rushed Renuka to Dr BR Ambedkar Medical College and Hospital, but she died before treatment could begin.

The KG Halli police launched a search and detained Kutti on Saturday. He was later produced before the court and has been remanded to judicial custody. A case of murder has been registered, and further investigation is underway. **BMB**

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CIVIC AGENCY EYES A NEW RECORD

Not for fixing potholes, but for missing deadlines

City's civic bodies routinely fail to meet deadlines set for road repair works each year; experts argue poor planning and lack of accountability lie at heart of issue

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At this rate, Bengaluru's civic agencies (earlier Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike and now its successor Greater Bengaluru Authority) might well be contenders for a place in the record books—not for filling potholes, but for the consistent manner in which they miss deadlines. The latest target to make the city pothole-free by November 2025 has gone the way of countless others: down the drain, quite literally.

This isn't the first time Bengalureans have been told to wait just a little longer. In 2017, there was a 15-day 'pothole-free' mission that never materialised. In 2019, the civic body vowed to repair 10,000 potholes in a month — incomplete. 2021's 'Mission Zero Potholes' fizzled out before October ended.

The 2022 pre-monsoon effort only saw potholes multiply with every shower. The 2023 drive to fill 25,000 potholes in 30 days failed to meet its goal. Even the 2024 deadlines set ahead of G20 and Aero India events couldn't hide the city's battered roads.

Each year brings new promises, new funds, and the same old potholes — stubbornly refusing to disappear, just like the excuses. As Bengalureans brace themselves for another bumpy ride, perhaps the civic body can at least take pride in one thing: a potential national record for consistently missing deadlines.

"We hear deadlines every few months, but the roads tell a different story," said Ramesh Gowda, a delivery executive who commutes through Mysuru Road daily.

"When it rains, you can't see the potholes. One wrong turn and you land straight in trouble. Who will take responsibility if someone gets hurt?" he said. The Chief Minister, who had earlier conducted surprise inspections and warned engineers of strict action, had set an October 31 deadline for the GBA to complete pothole-filling work across all eight zones. Officials claimed progress, but a quick reality check on the ground paints a bleak picture.

From Whitefield to Rajajinagar and Bannerghatta Road to Hebbal, residents say the so-called "drive against potholes" was more rhetoric than roadwork. "Just before the deadline, we saw a flurry of activity — tar being dumped here and there, often during rain. Two days later, the same patches opened up again," said Sneha Nair, a resident of Koramangala. She said that the same cycle repeats before every festival or VIP visit.

Continuous rainfall made it difficult to execute permanent repairs but temporary patching is done to ensure some relief, says official

Officials cite the recent spell of heavy rains as a key reason for the delays. A senior official, on the condition of anonymity, said that continuous rainfall made it difficult to execute permanent repairs.

"We carried out temporary patching to ensure some relief, but lasting repairs will take time once the weather stabilises," the official noted. However, experts argue that poor planning and lack of accountability are at the heart of the issue.

Skanda Kumar, a civil engineer said, "Every year, we hear new budgets, new technology, and new promises — but unless there's consistent quality control and independent monitoring, we'll be stuck in this endless loop."

Now, as November 2025 marks yet another chapter in this saga, Bengalureans are asking the same old question — will this be the deadline that finally holds, or just another promise washed away by the next rain?

Ambulance rams 2-wheelers; couple killed, two injured

A speeding ambulance crashed into three motorcycles at the Richmond Circle–Double Road junction late on Friday night, killing a couple and injuring two others. The incident occurred around 11.15 pm on November 1 under the Wilson Garden Traffic Police Station limits.

The victims who died have been identified as Ismail (40) and his wife Sameen Bhanu (33), residents of Someshwara Nagar. They were crossing the junction on their motorcycle when the ambulance, allegedly driven at high speed, rammed into them and two other bikes. The couple suffered severe injuries and died on the spot.

According to the police, the ambulance dragged one of the motorcycles for nearly 50 metres before it finally came to a halt after crashing into a traffic police booth. The impact left two other riders, Riyan and Siddiq, injured. They were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Investigations found that the ambulance did not have any patient on board at the time of the crash. Despite this, the driver was reportedly speeding and ignored the red signal, resulting in the fatal accident. Shocked and angered by the impact of the incident, local residents overturned the ambulance. The driver fled the spot soon after the crash. The scene was marked by an overturned ambulance, three crushed bikes, and a shattered traffic signal control unit.

The driver, who reportedly tried to flee the spot after the crash, has since been detained by the police. Wilson Garden Traffic Police have registered a fatal accident case, and further investigation is underway. **BMB**

Man accused of cheating elderly buyer of ₹4.5 crore in property fraud

A 61-year-old man has been booked for allegedly cheating a senior citizen of Rs 4.5 crore in a property fraud case and later attempting to pacify the family by proposing a marriage alliance between his daughter and the complainant's son.

According to the complainant, SV Halaswamy (74), alleged that the accused, Venkatesh Murthy, convinced him in 2012 that he was willing to sell a BDA-allotted property near New BEL Road for Rs 4.5 crore. Believing the documents shown to him were genuine, Halaswamy paid the amount in multiple bank transactions between March 14 and July 19, 2012.

However, despite receiving the entire amount, the accused allegedly failed to register the property or hand over original documents. According to the complaint, Murthy then tried to maintain close ties with Halaswamy's family by arranging a marriage alliance, even as the property matter remained unresolved.

When Halaswamy repeatedly demanded either the registration of the property or the return of his money, Murthy allegedly repaid only Rs 40 lakh, transferred from his wife's bank account, while the remaining Rs 4.1 crore was never returned.

The complainant further stated that instead of honouring his commitment, Murthy filed complaints against him with the Income Tax Department and the Enforcement Directorate, subjecting him to mental harassment and financial distress.

He also alleged that Murthy used abusive language and threatened to kill him when pressured for repayment. A complaint has now been filed at Vijayanagar Police Station. Police said an investigation is underway. **BMB**

CV Raman Hospital launches free day care chemotherapy unit

New facility offers free chemotherapy for all cancer types, easing financial strain and reducing patient load at Kidwai Hospital

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In a major relief to cancer patients, the CV Raman General Hospital in Bengaluru has introduced a free day-care chemotherapy facility for all types of cancer. The initiative is part of a government partnership with Sanjeevini Private Hospital, under which chemotherapy will be administered to patients after their first dose at the hospital where they are undergoing cancer treatment.

The hospital has reserved ten beds—five for men and five for women—exclusively for chemotherapy patients. To ensure smooth functioning, one physician, two staff nurses, and one Group D employee have been appointed specifically for the unit. Chemotherapy medicines are being supplied through the Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust (SAST), ensuring patients receive treatment at no cost and without bureaucratic delays.

Operational since April, the day-care chemotherapy unit has already treated several patients. Doctors from Sanjeevini Hospital have trained CV Raman Hospital's medical team to handle chemotherapy procedures safely and efficiently. The initiative aims to provide timely treatment and reduce delays that could affect recovery and disease control, particularly for those who cannot travel long distances for each session. It also ensures continuity of care for patients receiving long-term treatment.

Doctors and nurses trained by Sanjeevini Hospital handle chemotherapy expertly, providing continuity of care and confidence to recovering cancer patients.

Beyond chemotherapy, the hospital has also begun performing cancer surgeries. Under the guidance of Dr Venkateshwara, seven patients have already undergone breast and ovarian cancer operations. Plans are underway to further strengthen oncology services through telemedicine support, advanced diagnostic tools, and consultations with specialists from tertiary care centres to expand patient outreach and improve overall outcomes.

"Chemotherapy is expensive and often unaffordable for patients from poor and middle-class backgrounds," said Dr Rajesh K S, Medical Superintendent of CV Raman Hospital. "We launched this service to make cancer care accessible and hassle-free. Anyone can walk in and receive free chemotherapy here without long waits."

The initiative is also expected to ease the burden on the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, which handles thousands of patients daily. With CV Raman Hospital offering free localised treatment, many patients can now opt for convenient, day-care chemotherapy closer to home—marking a major step toward decentralising and democratising cancer care in Bengaluru and improving access to essential healthcare services.

Key Benefits of the Day Care Chemo Centre

- No need to return to original treating hospital for each chemo session
- Reduced hospital travel time and expenses for patients
- Improved access to early-stage diagnosis and treatment
- Lower chances of treatment denial due to logistical constraints

This decentralised model is set to be a game-changer in public healthcare, bringing accessible, affordable, and timely cancer treatment closer to communities across Bengaluru.

Night dumpers turn Ramaiah Road filthy

The condition of 1st Main Road of MS Ramaiah Layout on Tumkur Road

Residents of MS Ramaiah Layout on Tumkur Road are frustrated over recurring garbage issues on the 1st Main Road — not because of civic neglect, but due to a few irresponsible neighbours. Most residents clarified that pourakarmikas have been doing their jobs efficiently, yet the problem persists because some people dump waste at night along the roadside, turning public spaces into eyesores and causing inconvenience to pedestrians. A homemaker, who preferred anonymity, said, "I find no fault with pourakarmikas. They clear garbage regularly, but a few residents keep throwing waste on the road."

Resident Anantha Ramaiah blamed the issue on vacant sites under litigation, which have become informal dumping grounds. "A few lazy residents find these spots convenient for discarding waste. Shockingly, some from nearby apartments throw garbage from their balconies," he said, urging the Bengaluru West City Corporation (BWCC) to penalize offenders.

Chandre Gowda, health inspector of Bagala-kunte ward, confirmed that the garbage is cleared regularly but admitted to challenges. "Some residents set dry waste on fire and dump all kinds of trash, including old mattresses. We will take strict measures to keep the stretch clean," he assured. Residents have also requested regular CCTV monitoring and awareness campaigns to discourage night-time dumping and improve community responsibility. — BMB

Smooth ride returns on Double Road

The condition of Double Road, Indiranagar

Residents, motorists, and pedestrians of Indiranagar in CV Raman Nagar constituency have expressed satisfaction with the Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC) for repairing and asphalting a stretch of Double Road. The road, which had been riddled with potholes and craters, had long caused inconvenience to daily commuters.

Following the recent asphalting work, the stretch now offers smoother passage, easing traffic flow and improving safety for both two-wheelers and four-wheelers. John Kennedy, a social activist, lauded the civic officials for their timely intervention. "I want to thank and appreciate the BCCC authorities for filling up potholes and craters on this road. Many thanks to the authorities concerned," he said. Echoing similar sentiments, Prabhakar Patel, former member of the Kannada Development Authority, said, "The road condition was not good earlier. Now, it's nice to see all the potholes filled up and part of the road asphalted. It makes commuting easier for motorists on this busy link between CMH Road and Old Madras Road."

BCCC Executive Engineer Saifuddin explained that the work had briefly been delayed due to the ongoing caste census but was completed soon after, as per instructions from higher officials. — BMB

Volunteers give garbage hotspot complete makeover

What was once a neglected black spot filled with garbage, debris, and broken furniture has now blossomed into a vibrant and meaningful public space. Annasandrapalya Main Road in HAL, once avoided by pedestrians due to its unbearable stench, now stands as a shining example of community transformation and Kannada pride.

On Kannada Rajyotsava, volunteers from Youth for Parivarthan, supported by the Greater Bengaluru Authority and officers of the Indian Navy, joined hands to reclaim and rejuvenate the neglected stretch. They cleaned every corner, removed heaps of waste, and turned the dull walls into colourful murals that celebrate Karnataka's rich culture, language, and heritage. The makeover was not merely aesthetic — it was a heartfelt tribute to the legends of the state. Each portrait and brushstroke echoes the contributions of Karnataka's greats, symbolising unity, creativity, and respect for the land. What was once an eyesore now stands as a proud, living canvas of volunteerism, civic responsibility, and Rajyotsava spirit that continues to inspire citizens across Bengaluru. — BMB

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Damaged pole
Hanumanthanagar

An electric pole and adjoining footpath at 2nd Main, 4th Cross Junction, Mount Joy Extension, are in a deplorable state — urgent repair is needed to ensure public safety.

Parking chaos
Suranjan Das Road

Garbage trucks and pickup vans parked along Suranjan Das Road are obstructing traffic flow — immediate action is required to clear the route.

Concrete menace
Amruthahalli

Illegally dumped concrete near Sobha HRC Pristine's closed back gate on Amruthahalli Main Road needs swift clearance; BBMP urged to install CCTV and fine offenders.

'Serious matter': No bail for man accused of trafficking

A Bengaluru court has refused to grant bail to a man accused of illegally bringing around 400 Bangladesh nationals into the city and facilitating their stay and employment using forged documents. The court observed that the allegations were of a "serious nature" involving national security concerns and cross-border infiltration, and therefore, the accused did not deserve the relief of bail at this stage.

The accused, identified as 38-year-old Rafiq Ahmed (name changed), was arrested by the Bengaluru Police's Central Crime Branch (CCB) earlier this year following a series of raids in the city's eastern suburbs. Investigators allege that Rafiq was part of a larger network that helped undocumented migrants from Bangladesh enter India through porous border areas in West Bengal and Assam, and later transported them to Bengaluru for work in construction, housekeeping, and waste collection.

According to the police, Rafiq and his associates arranged fake Aadhaar cards, voter IDs, and employment documents for the migrants to help them blend into local communities. "This is not a case of isolated illegal migration but an organised operation that compromises internal security and the integrity of identity systems," the prosecution argued in court.

The defence, however, argued that Rafiq was being made a scapegoat and that there was no concrete evidence linking him to cross-border trafficking. His counsel claimed that he merely arranged jobs for migrant workers already residing in the city.

Rejecting the bail plea, the court noted that the charges under the Foreigners Act, Passport (Entry into India) Rules, and sections related to criminal conspiracy under the Indian Penal Code were grave. The court said, "The offence alleged affects the sovereignty and integrity of the nation and has wider ramifications. The accused cannot be released at this juncture." **–BMB**

IN COURT

'Pending appeal no reason to deny parole'

The Karnataka High Court has held that the pendency of a bail plea or a criminal appeal cannot, by itself, be a reason to deny parole to a convict. The court observed that parole serves a limited humanitarian purpose and should not be conflated with bail or other forms of legal relief.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj made these observations while hearing a petition filed by the wife of a prisoner serving a 20-year sentence for rape. The petitioner had challenged the authorities' decision to reject her husband's request for parole, which was turned down solely because his appeal and bail application were still pending before the court. "The appeal which is pending would be considered on its own merits by the Court seized of the matter, the bail application would also be considered on its own merits. There is a distinction between parole and bail application," the October 30 order held. The judge noted that parole and bail are "entirely distinct concepts." While bail is granted to secure a person's liberty during trial or appeal, parole is a temporary release for specific reasons such as family emergencies or rehabilitation. Denying parole simply because a bail plea or appeal is pending, the court said, amounts to a misunderstanding of the law and undermines the purpose of parole.

Justice Govindaraj pointed out that parole is not a right but a privilege granted under specific conditions. However, he emphasised that it cannot be refused arbitrarily, particularly when the convict has shown good conduct and has already served a considerable portion of the sentence. The court further observed that the correctional system should aim at reform and reintegration, and parole plays a vital role in maintaining an individual's family and social connections. **–BMB**

Khata clarity sought for properties in dispute

Citizens demand scrutiny of records, transparent process to verify authenticity before granting regularisation to properties, especially those under litigation

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The much-publicised and awaited scheme of issuing A Khatas to B Khata properties was launched from November 1 on the eve of Kannada Rajyotsava. The Deputy Chief Minister described it as a Rajyotsava gift for citizens of Bengaluru. However, the scheme, without proper precautions, is expected to cause immense loss to genuine property owners who have been running pillar to post to free their properties from land mafia and fraudulent land developers.

Many people, including Union Minister for Steel HD Kumaraswamy, strongly criticised the state government for fixing 5 per cent of the property's SR value as the fee to issue A Khatas for B Khata properties, along with a nominal application fee of Rs 500. While Kumaraswamy argued that the government had already collected development charges, several home buyers and property owners questioned the rationale behind levying 5 per cent of the property value as a fee. They urged the government to instruct revenue authorities not to issue A Khatas for B Khata properties hastily, without proper document verification.

They are urging the government to exempt properties that are under litigation or have been fraudulently encroached upon by land mafias. For instance, a property in Vijinapura was allegedly taken over by land mafias and sold to unsuspecting home buyers. The land in question is disputed, with a case pending in the city civil court for over 75 years. Shockingly, revenue authorities from the then BBMP (now Bengaluru East City Corporation) issued an E Khata for the property without verifying the documents. The original landowner is said to have repeatedly appealed to the BBMP not to issue any form of Khata, citing a temporary court injunction on the land.

Properties that are under litigation or have been fraudulently encroached upon are also allegedly being issued Khatas due to poor verification

Many question rationale behind levying 5% of property value as fee for A Khata issuance, while urging government not to allow Khata upgrades without proper document verification

"The state government must carefully look into all the documents before issuing A Khata for B Khata properties. For example, some properties, including mine, are under litigation and cases are pending in honourable courts," said Yatish M, a resident of Jayanagar. He urged the government to ensure all the data, including pending cases, should be made visible on the official GBA website. "It will avoid further litigation and provide relief to original land owners and the genuine buyers," said Yatish.

Describing the government's decision as a progressive move, Sudhakar Lakshmanaraja, Founder of Digital South Trust, said it gives Bengaluru residents access to better infrastructure and amenities. But he said, if B Khata properties are under litigation, there's a risk—revenue officers must have a robust, transparent process to verify authenticity before granting regularisation. He noted that this gap must be clarified by the department. He said implementing a blockchain-based judiciary chain and property chain across government departments will enable both officers and courts to instantly access real-time data on property status and ongoing cases, safeguarding ownership rights and preventing future disputes. "It's the need of the hour for Karnataka to embrace interoperable blockchain records for legal clarity," he said.

Stating that a Khata is a record of ownership and facilitates property tax collection, Karnataka Home Buyers' Forum Convenor Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar criticised the government for attempting to collect 5% of the guidance value from current property owners instead of the original promoters. He argued that it was the promoters who failed to follow regulations during the formation of layouts or construction of buildings. Padmanabhachar added that the government has already collected up to 7 per cent stamp duty during property registration, and demanding an additional 5 per cent is unjustified. "Home buyers or site owners are compelled to pay 5 per cent of the total value of the property for the mistakes of government and promoters/developers. We advise the home buyers to lodge a complaint against the government before Lokayukta or High Court for dereliction of duty," he said.

Metro staff reunite girl with mom

A six-year-old girl who was separated from her mother at the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Station – Majestic around 12.30 pm was safely reunited with her family, thanks to the prompt response of Bengaluru Metro staff. According to BMRCL officials, a fellow passenger noticed the unaccompanied child and immediately handed her over to the station's security personnel. Metro authorities swiftly alerted all station controllers to trace the child's mother.

With the coordinated efforts of the metro staff, the mother was located at Mahakavi Kuvempu Metro Station. The child was then safely reunited with her mother at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Station – Majestic. **–BMB**

More eyes to track litterbugs

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has announced that more CCTV cameras will soon be installed across Bengaluru with the help of the police and BBMP to monitor and penalise those dumping garbage indiscriminately. He said offenders are already being identified through existing cameras, and their dumped waste is being returned to their doorsteps as a lesson. Fines have also been imposed, collecting several lakhs of rupees so far.

He urged citizens to cooperate in keeping Bengaluru clean and revealed that discussions are underway to adopt Mumbai's model, where contractors responsible for road maintenance also handle waste along roadways. He also encouraged residents to report garbage heaps or potholes by sharing photos and location details with civic officials. **–BMB**

Rough seas claim 4 students' lives

A Bengaluru-based engineering student lost his life after being swept away by the sea while bathing at Sasihithlu Beach on Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Pranam Chandra (24). A group of seven students from Bengaluru had come to Mangaluru on a leisure trip. Around 3.45 pm on Sunday, they visited Sasihithlu Beach and entered the sea for a swim. Lifeguards and home guards stationed at the beach had reportedly warned the group about the strong currents and advised them not to venture into deep waters. Meanwhile, three medical students from Bengaluru lost their lives after being swept away by strong waves at the Payyambalam beach in Kerala's Kannur on Sunday, police said. The deceased have been identified as Afnan, Rahanuddeen, and Afras, from Karnataka and students of a medical college in Bengaluru. **BMB**

Namma Metro Phase 3 breaks ground with double-decker boost

After months of delay, BMRCL begins tendering for the 28.4 km JP Nagar–Kempapura corridor featuring India's first double-decker structure

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After a long wait, the much-anticipated third phase of Namma Metro has finally reached the groundbreaking stage. The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is preparing to invite tenders for the construction of the 28.4-kilometre corridor connecting JP Nagar 4th Phase to Kempapura in Hebbal.

The Central Government had approved the JP Nagar 4th Phase–Kempapura route nearly a year ago, but tenders were delayed, drawing public criticism. Officials cited the need for detailed planning to integrate a double-decker viaduct structure along portions of the route as the main reason for the holdup. Now, with planning complete, BMRCL is ready to move forward.

According to officials, the corporation plans to invite tenders across ten separate construction packages covering viaducts, stations, and depots. Major areas along the proposed corridor include JP Nagar, Kamakya, Kadirenahalli, Hosakerehalli, KHB Colony, Kamakshipalya, Mysuru Road, Nagarabhavi Circle, Papareddypalya, Badarahalli, Kamat Layout, Sumanahalli Cross, Chaudeshwarinagar, Freedom Fighter Cross, Kanteerava Stadium, Nagashettihalli, and Kempapura. The 28.4-kilometre route will feature multiple interchange points, enhancing connectivity with other metro lines and key city roads.

A defining feature of this phase is India's first integrated double-decker structure—a combination of a metro line and flyover—spanning 37.12 kilometres. This includes the 28.4-kilometre JP Nagar–Kempapura stretch and an additional 8.6-kilometre section between Hosahalli on Magadi Road and Kadabagere. The total estimated cost for this double-decker project stands at ₹9,700 crore, approved by the State Cabinet in September. The State Government will contribute 50% of the cost, the Government of India 10%, while the remaining 40% will be financed through loans.

The overall cost of Phase 3 is projected at ₹15,611 crore. For perspective, Phase 1 (42 km) escalated from ₹6,395 crore to ₹14,133 crore, while Phase 2 (72 km) rose from ₹26,405 crore to ₹40,614 crore. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will provide a loan of ₹7,577 crore to fund part of Phase 3, including the purchase of new rolling stock. The corridor will include 30 stations, seven of which will serve as interchange points linking with other metro corridors. Initially, commercial operations were targeted for 2029, but with delays in the tendering process, completion is now expected around 2031.

Bengaluru's metro network has seen remarkable growth, now spanning 97 kilometres and serving around 10 lakh passengers daily—making it India's second-largest metro system after Delhi. The Delhi Metro operates a 394-kilometre network catering to over 65 lakh commuters each day. Bengaluru is followed by Mumbai (82.2 km, 8.5 lakh daily riders), Kolkata (74 km, 6.9 lakh), Hyderabad (62.7 km, 6 lakh), and Ahmedabad (54 km, 4.7 lakh). Cities such as Nagpur, Pune, and Kochi have smaller networks between 28 and 40 kilometres, while Lucknow and Jaipur operate compact systems that serve up to 1.5 lakh passengers daily.

For Bengaluru, Phase 3A promises another major leap, especially with the upcoming Blue Line connecting Sarjapur to Hebbal. The 36.59-kilometre corridor will include 14.45 kilometres of underground tunnels and 22.14 kilometres of elevated tracks, housing 28 stations—11 underground and 17 elevated. This line aims to ease congestion along key arterial routes, connecting residential belts to major IT and commercial hubs.

Construction begins for Phase 3 of Namma Metro, bringing a major mobility upgrade; 28.4-km line will ease traffic, add new interchanges, and introduce India's first elevated double-decker viaduct system

While metro fares across Indian cities vary, Bengaluru's rates remain among the higher. A 30-kilometre ride costs around ₹90, compared with lower per-kilometre fares in cities like Ahmedabad (₹1.2/km) and Chennai (₹2.14/km). Yet, despite these differences, commuters continue to value metro systems for their efficiency, comfort, and ability to significantly reduce travel time.

With tenders finally on the verge of being floated, Phase 3 marks a decisive step toward realising Bengaluru's vision of seamless urban mobility. The expansion not only strengthens the city's infrastructure backbone but also signals its growing stature as one of India's most rapidly advancing metro hubs.

Khandre unveils eight-point wildlife conflict plan

In response to the surge in human–wildlife conflicts, particularly in Bandipur and Mysuru regions, Karnataka Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar B Khandre has unveiled a comprehensive eight-point action plan aimed at mitigating the crisis. The initiative follows a series of alarming incidents involving elephants, leopards, and other wild animals straying into human settlements, prompting widespread concern among local communities and conservationists alike.

Khandre has instructed forest officials to map all conflict-prone zones and maintain detailed records of incidents to understand their nature and frequency. Human resources will be strategically redeployed — with personnel from less-affected or safari zones temporarily assigned to vulnerable regions. Enhanced patrolling will be ensured, with every forest-bordering village monitored through GPS-enabled patrol vehicles and mandatory patrol registers for accountability. Senior officers have also been directed to stay in affected villages, assess ground realities firsthand, and build trust with residents through direct engagement and community interaction.

Acknowledging the ecological imbalance behind these conflicts, Khandre stressed the need to restore natural habitats within existing forest limits by clearing invasive weeds like lantana and senna, which have disrupted native fodder growth and wildlife movement patterns. He warned that if the crisis persists, strict measures — including suspension of safari operations and reassessment of tourism pressure — could follow to prioritise both human and animal safety.

— BMB

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Silent order

Law Minister HK Patil confirmed that senior Congress leaders have imposed a "gag order" on ministers regarding talk of a leadership change. "The CM post issue is entirely for the party high command to decide," he said, adding that reshuffle matters will be discussed only between Siddaramaiah and senior leaders. His remarks follow rising curiosity among ministers eyeing Cabinet roles.

Hat trick!

Back in 1973, when Devaraj Urs was Chief Minister, he introduced the slouch hat that became synonymous with Karnataka Police pride. But after decades of sun, rain, and sweat, it may finally be time for a change. Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara admitted that while the hat looks smart, it gets heavy in the rain prompting officers to seek a lighter, weather-friendly alternative. The new cap aims to preserve tradition while ensuring comfort.

Another chance

Despite calling 2013, 2018, and 2023 his "last election," Chief Minister Siddaramaiah hasn't ruled out contesting again in 2028. "My supporters insist I should run," he said, keeping speculation alive. Ministers like Byrathi Suresh say his return is "almost certain," while Satish Jarkiholi quipped, "There's no retirement in politics." The veteran leader may be eyeing one more innings after all.

Investment duel

IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge's jibe "What's there in Assam? Do they even have the talent?" — ignited a political storm. Assam CM

Himanta Biswa Sarma hit back, calling it an "insult to Assam's youth." Kharge later clarified his comments were taken out of context, but the North-East vs. South debate over semiconductor investments shows no signs of cooling.

Police lapse

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah issued a stern warning to the police over alleged links with real-estate and drug networks, saying, "You know who the traffickers are — act before it's too late." He also unveiled a redesigned police peak cap, personally chosen by him, replacing the one used since 1956. "This new look should boost confidence and reflect in your work," he told officers, praising the force for giving the government "a good name."

Empty trunk

Deputy CM DK Shivakumar fired a sharp retort at BJP MP Tejasvi Surya, branding him an "empty trunk." Explaining his jab, he said, "It means no money from the Centre — only talk and tweets." Urging BJP MPs to secure funds for Bengaluru, Shivakumar added, "Without resources, how can we build infrastructure? We need action, not advice."

Coffee tribute

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his latest Mann Ki Baat, lauded Karnataka's world-famous coffee and Bengaluru activist Kapil Sharma, whose NGO revived six lakes and 40 wells. Praising regions like Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu, and Hassan, Modi said Karnataka — producing 70% of India's coffee — has made the nation proud as Indian brews win global hearts.

— Sridhar Vivan

BM SIMPLY PUT

Frequent fires, unsafe designs, and weak enforcement expose the dark side of India's booming sleeper bus travel industry

Sleeper buses: India's comfort rides turn deadly fire traps

As festive travellers slept peacefully, a devastating fire turned a Bengaluru-bound sleeper bus into a blazing tomb near Kurnool on October 24, killing 20 passengers. The incident—one among several similar tragedies in recent years—has once again raised serious questions about the safety, legality, and design of sleeper coaches in India. Experts say this isn't just an Indian problem; it's a global one.

Why are AC sleeper coaches considered dangerous?

Sleeper coaches are often called unsafe because of their poor design, use of flammable materials, and lack of regulatory oversight. These buses are tightly packed with berths, leaving passengers with almost no space to escape during emergencies. The interiors are lined with foam, plastic, and synthetic materials that ignite quickly, and the air-conditioning units use gases like R32 and R410A, which can explode in high heat. Many buses are modified from old chassis without fire-safety certification, and their emergency exits are either blocked or absent. On long-distance night routes, fatigue among drivers increases accident risks, while undercarriage compartments—illegally used to store goods, including flammable items—turn these vehicles into potential fire traps on wheels.

How frequent are such accidents?

Tragically, bus fires involving sleeper coaches have become disturbingly common across India. In the last three years alone, the country has witnessed multiple fatal incidents—from the recent Kurnool tragedy that killed 19 passengers to the Penpalli and Hyderabad fires where dozens narrowly escaped, and the horrific 2023 Nagpur Expressway accident that claimed 26 lives. Each of these incidents follows a similar pattern: overcrowded layouts, poor maintenance, absence of safety audits, and zero accountability. Despite recurring deaths, the systemic response remains reactive rather than preventive, and enforcement mechanisms continue to fail at every level.

Which countries have banned sleeper coaches?

Several countries have recognised the inherent dangers of sleeper coaches and have either restricted or completely banned them. The United Kingdom was among the first to prohibit standard sleeper buses in 2000, limiting them only to specially designed tourist coaches. Following repeated accidents, most European nations followed suit by 2006, citing design flaws and passenger safety risks. China too, after facing a spate of deadly fires, restricted sleeper bus registrations in 2012, labelling them "moving coffins." These bans underline a global consensus that the safety risks of such buses outweigh their convenience.

How common are sleeper buses in India?

India remains one of the few countries where sleeper coaches are still widely used. Out of roughly 23 lakh registered buses in the country, nearly two lakhs are sleeper variants—making India's ratio among the highest in the world. Cities like Bengaluru alone see nearly a thousand sleeper buses arriving daily, serving as the preferred mode of night travel for lakhs of passengers. Yet, their popularity masks a grim reality: most of these buses lack proper fire certification, design approval, or emergency preparedness. In India and Pakistan—the only two countries still running such large numbers of sleeper coaches—the balance between comfort and safety continues to tilt dangerously in favour of the former.

Why are many sleeper buses registered in Northeastern states?

A large number of sleeper coaches operating in South India, particularly in Karnataka, are registered in Northeastern states like Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. The reason is primarily economic—these states impose only 5% road tax, compared to Karnataka's steep 18%. Agents exploit this loophole by arranging registrations in the Northeast even for buses that never operate there, thereby saving lakhs in tax. However, this practice allows unsafe, poorly inspected buses to operate nationwide without proper scrutiny, as enforcement agencies find it difficult to track vehicles registered in distant jurisdictions.

What safety reforms are experts recommending?

Experts and transport engineers have been unanimous in calling for a comprehensive overhaul of sleeper coach regulations. They urge authorities to ban the conversion of old buses into sleeper coaches without certified fire-safety design approval, mandate wider aisles and fewer berths to enable emergency movement, and enforce the use of non-flammable interiors and heat-resistant wiring. Every sleeper bus, they say, should have visible, accessible emergency exits, along with mandatory fire extinguishers and smoke alarms. For long-haul night routes, at least two licensed drivers must be onboard to reduce fatigue-related risks. Enforcement, however, remains the missing link—without strict audits, even the best guidelines mean little.

How did sleeper coaches originate?

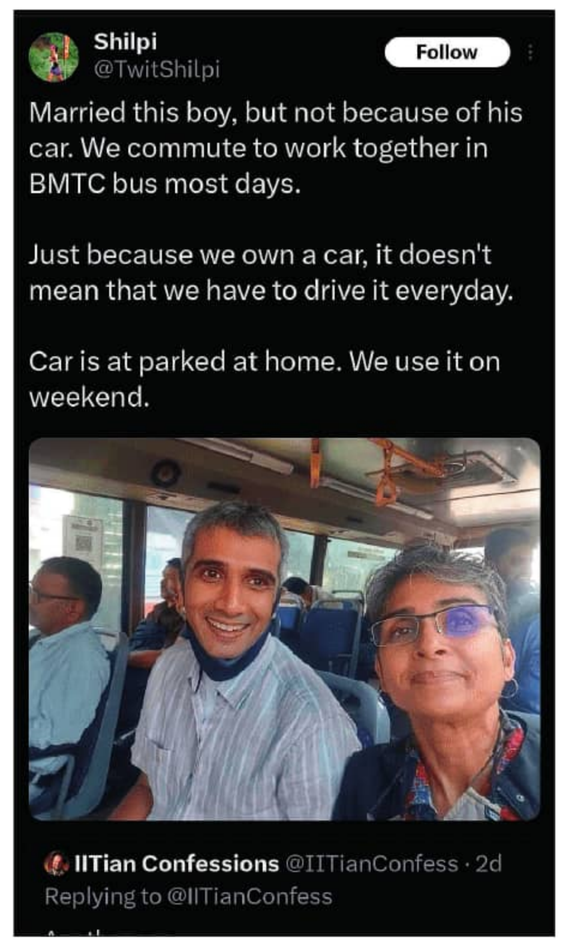
The concept of sleeper buses traces its roots back to 1930s England, where they were used by travelling music bands as a convenient overnight transport option. In India, the Mysore Road Transport Corporation introduced the country's first sleeper bus service in 1966 between Bengaluru and Hubballi, equipped with simple comforts like fans, radios, and berths. What began as a symbol of innovation in intercity travel has, over the decades, devolved into a neglected safety hazard. In the absence of proper design regulation and enforcement, India's sleeper coaches—once intended to offer rest and comfort—have tragically turned into moving death traps.

What does this reveal about India's transport safety system?

India's recurring sleeper bus fires are not isolated accidents but symptoms of a larger, systemic neglect of safety in passenger transport. Unless the government enforces modern design standards, closes registration loopholes, and mandates fire audits, these "moving bedrooms" will continue turning into "moving pyres," ending lives that simply went to sleep hoping to reach home.

SOCIALTATTLE

THAT WENT VIRAL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When public transport brings people closer: Couple counters "no car, no marriage" claim with a BMTC selfie. Love is greater than car. This couple says BMTC is enough.

A rat using the zebra crossing was caught on camera, fitting hilariously with the viral line: " beku antha bandbidalla, dhaari thappi bandbitu!" https://www.instagram.

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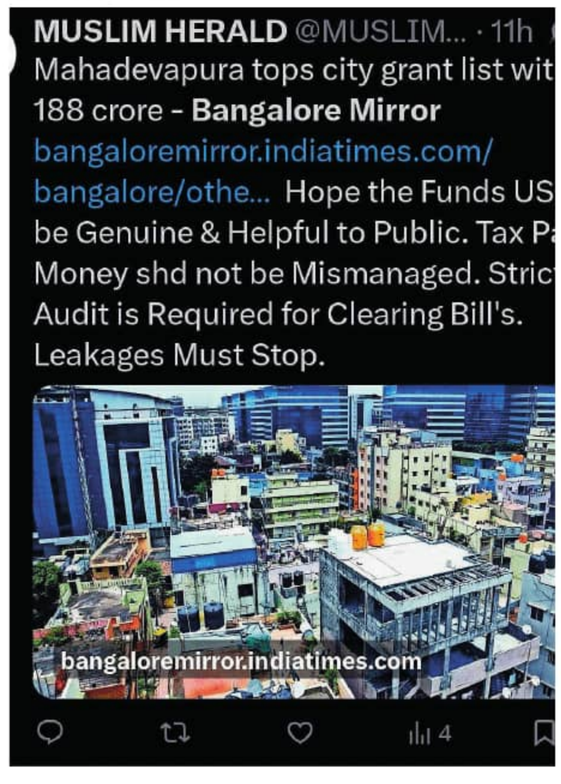
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A post on X based on a BM story says hope the money allotted to Mahadevapura is put to genuine use and any leakage of funds is stopped.

20% increase in house thefts in 2024 as compared to 2023

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

because employers fail to verify their identities, addresses, or past employment history. Once hired, they gain access to homes, valuables, and information, making theft easier.

DCP south Lokesh Jagalasar urged that background verification is not only simple but also crucial. The Seva Sindhu portal offers a streamlined process for residents to submit details of domestic workers for police checks. However, despite repeated awareness campaigns, the uptake has remained negligible. "But without proper verification, you are essentially letting a stranger into your home with full trust."

Although police verification for domestic workers is not mandatory, officials stress that it is always wiser to take precautions than regret losses later.

According to police officials, many homeowners do not consider verification important because they pay relatively low salaries around ₹5,000 to ₹7,000 and domestic workers often do not stay for long periods. "Since most workers are not permanent, house owners feel there is no need for verification," an official said.

However, the cost of conducting police verification for domestic workers in Karnataka through the Seva Sindhu portal ranges from ₹150 to ₹1,500, depending on the service chosen.

Rise in cases

The city recorded a sharp rise in incidents last year, with 392 cases reported, a 20% increase from 2023. Of these, police managed to solve 145 cases. In comparison, 2023 saw 326 reported cases, of which 174 were cracked. A majority of the offences involved workers from outside the state. City police data shows that the total value of jewellery, cash, electronic gadgets, and other valuables stolen by domestic helps in 2024 is estimated at ₹46.5 crore, while property worth ₹9.8 crore has been recovered so far.

In several recent theft cases, the accused domestic workers had provided fake addresses or unverifiable phone numbers. "Most people rely on word-of-mouth references or building security guards when hiring domestic help," an officer explained.

A senior police official said employers' negligence often makes it easier for domestic workers to commit offences. "Homeowners should verify the credentials of domestic help at the local police station to check for any criminal background. They should also collect original identity documents and ensure they are properly verified," he advised. He added that hiring workers through authorised human resource agencies is another effective safeguard, as these agencies carry out thorough background checks.

The officer further noted that many employers do not maintain complete records or documentation of their domestic workers. "When the accused is a habitual offender, solving the case becomes easier. But if they are from another state, tracing them becomes difficult due to the lack of accurate information provided by homeowners," he said.

Another police official said that many domestic workers implicated in theft cases are from other states. "They gradually earn the trust of employers, and in some instances, they deliberately target well-off households, planning the theft even before joining. Some even convince homeowners to employ their relatives. As this trust deepens, employers often hand over house keys to them," the officer noted.

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I, Rohi Khanum D/o Rashid Khan R/o No. 18/2, 3rd Floor, A R Mansion, 2nd Cross, Potter Town, Benson Town, Bengaluru - 560046 have changed my name to Roohi Khanam for all purposes.

I, Rashid Khan Ismail Khan S/o Ismail Khan R/o No. 18/2, 3rd Floor, A R Mansion, 2nd Cross, Potter Town, Benson Town, Bengaluru - 560046 have changed my name to Rashid Khan for all purposes.

SURESHAKUMARA K N s/o Narayana Swamy K R/o 1839, 3rd block, sir M V Lyt, sonnenahalli ullalu Bengaluru 560056 have changed my name to Suresh Kumar K N, Affidavit Dt.29/10/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Raj Khannam alias Jabeen Taj W/o Rashid Khan, R/o No. 18/2, 3rd Floor, A R Mansion, 2nd Cross, Potter Town, Benson Town, Bengaluru - 560046 have changed my name to Jabeen Taj for all purposes.

I, Nitin Agarwal, S/o Rajesh Agarwal, R/o 4131, Prestige lakeside habitat, vathur road, bangalore 560087 have changed my minor son's name from Anit Agarwal to Ritwik Agarwal for all purposes.

I, Guruprasad S Mensi S/o Sunanth Mensi, R/o No 196 Pipeline Road, Near Bus Stop, Malleshwaram Bangalore, State: Karnataka, Pincode: 560003, My father name is spelled mistake as Sumanth Mensa, Correct name is Sumanth Mensi as per adhar and pan

I, Aliay Tabasam W/O Shameer Khan # 50 Millers Road Benson Town Blr-46 have changed my name to Aliya Tabasam for all purposes.

I, Naser Ali R/O No 132 Jhbcs layout 3rd Cross Kadirenahalli J P Nagar Bengaluru 560078 Have changed my name to Naser Ali Jafer for all Purposes.

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3rd Asian Games: Bengaluru girl represents India

Ankitha N from Kwans Taekwondo Academy, Bangalore, has etched her name into Karnataka's sporting history as the first athlete from the state to represent India in the Girls' Under 49 kg Taekwondo category at the 3rd Asian Youth Games 2025 in Bahrain.

Ankita's journey began at the state level, winning championships and progressing to seize gold at the national selection trials and the final selection stage, defeating some of the strongest Taekwondo competitors from all over India. Each victory was powered by years of focused training, discipline, and the ability to balance academic excellence with athletic ambition.

A key figure behind Ankitha's rise is her coach, Master Gautham Lavakumar, who has mentored her from the very beginning at Kwans Taekwondo Academy. His multifaceted training methods, combined with a true passion for nurturing talent, played an indispensable role in Ankitha's development. Master Gautham's belief in holistic growth, rigorous practice, and in-depth preparation enabled Ankitha to reach this milestone, shaping her physical, mental, and strategic acumen.

Ankitha's commitment soared further when she spent two months away from home for intense training at the Indian national camp, successfully managing both her academics and rigorous athletic schedule—a testament to her dedication and perseverance. **BMB**

Koramangala, Indiranagar together have 120 pubs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bengaluru South records 30 licences, and Mahadevapura stands at 27, making them key areas for hotel and lodging businesses in the city.

According to the data presented in the Legislative Assembly recently, "Dasarahalli has 20 licences, whereas KR Puram has 21, and Rajarajeshwari Nagar accounts for 13. In the central parts of Bengaluru, Gandhinagar has five, while Shantinagar and Jayanagar each have four. BTM Layout and Padmanabhanagar each have five licences.

Areas such as Govindarajanagar and Vijayanagar have four and two licences, respectively. Among other constituencies, Shivajinagar, Chamarajpet, Chickpet, and Basavanagudi have two licences each. Hebbal, Rajajinagar, and Malleshwaram have minimal numbers, with one to three licences each. Pulakeshinagar recorded zero CL-7 licences."

No New CL-2, CL-9 licences

Excise Minister RB Thimmapur said in the reply, "Since 1992, the Excise Department has restricted the issuance of new CL-2 and CL-9 licences in Karnataka. However, other liquor licences, including CL-4, CL-6, CL-7, and microbrewery permits, continue to be granted under various state excise rules. Between 2022-23 and February 2025, a total of 340 CL-7 (Boarding & Lodging) licences have been issued in Bengaluru Urban district. The department confirms that all licenses have been issued per government regulations, ruling out any possibility of cancellations.

However, strict inspections are conducted, and legal action is taken against any violations. Over the past two years, 6,517 cases of licence condition breaches have been recorded in Karnataka."

The CL-7 licence allows liquor sales with food to guests staying in lodges and restaurant visitors. These licences adhere to restrictions on proximity to educational institutions, religious places, hospitals, and highways, as per Karnataka Excise Rules.

The Supreme Court ruling prohibits licences within 500 metre of highways in urban areas and 220 metre in smaller towns, with exceptions for municipal limits.

"To boost tourism and revenue, the state has relaxed restrictions for new CL-7(A) licences. A government notification dated August 16, 2024, further allows license grants in areas with a population of 3,000 or more under specific conditions," he added.

HEALTH TIP: Nutrient deficiencies (like zinc, B vitamins, or Omega 3s) can make scalp prone to irritation, flare ups

The most effective way to heal dry lips overnight is by applying a generous layer of nourishing lip balm before sleeping

WALK ON

Nature walks are good for you, but can a city stroll be just as good?

With every step on the trail, fallen leaves crinkle underfoot. The path follows a stream, rushing and burbling over smooth, gray stones, while a breeze rustles the branches overhead. Now compare that blissful mental image to what you might walk past in a city — traffic, crowds, concrete and glass. Which seems better for you?

Walking in nature has been shown to boost physical and mental health, lowering stress and restoring attention. But researchers are finding plenty of mental-health benefits to walking in urban areas, too.

You just have to find the right path and pay attention to your surroundings.

"Look at the green," said Whitney Fleming, an environmental psychology researcher at Bangor University in Wales, U.K. "Most cities have greenery. No matter where you are, you can find a nice tree."

She noted that walking — considered moderate exercise — is good for you in general; it can lower the risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, dementia, depression and many types of cancer. Walking in nature goes beyond the benefits of physical movement: "Humans have an innate, evolutionary tendency to like nature."

Fleming's research has found that people who were asked to pay attention to plant life while walking were significantly less anxious afterward than those asked to focus on human-made elements. The former group also reported feeling more positive emotions.

"Having natural elements to look at in cities is really important in terms of these effects, because you can still receive benefits even when not in a natural setting," she said.

Other researchers have challenged the belief that cities are inherently stressful, said Cesar San Juan Guillen, a social psychology professor at the University of Basque Country in Spain.

Until recently, he said, much environmental research was biased against the built environment, comparing natural settings with stressful urban ones, such as traffic-heavy streets.

San Juan Guillen has compared people who spent time in a green urban park to those who went to a busy plaza with a historic church, playground and bars. Both showed improved cognitive performance and attention, he said, and fewer negative emotions like anxiety, hostility and fatigue.

> **Research has found that people who were asked to pay attention to plant life while walking were less anxious afterward**

But the group in the more built-up plaza felt even more energized and less stressed.

Spending time in historic urban areas, walking in cemeteries and taking in panoramic views, for instance, provoke "a kind of soft fascination," San Juan Guillen said.

"This type of involuntary attention may be more effective... (at recovering) the kind of attention we deplete through work or study," he said.

The fields of environmental psychology, neuroscience and architecture are drawing on each other's research for a better understanding of how people interact with the built environment, said Tristan Cleveland, an urban planning consultant with the Canadian firm Happy Cities.

"With blank walls, people actually walk past them faster, as if they're trying to escape," said Cleveland, who received his doctorate at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia. "And they're less likely to stop and talk if they see a friend."

When considering where to walk in cities, Cleveland suggested seeking out places that would produce the sense of soft fascination. You'll know a destination or route if it passes the "first kiss test," somewhere you might bring someone on a date, he said.

Annabel Abbs-Streets, author of "The Walking Cure" and "52 Ways to Walk," said she has experienced that sense of bliss in a variety of locations. She suggested seeking out walkable cities like Boston; Taos, New Mexico; and Dubrovnik, Croatia.

Or just find the closest historic cemetery to home — Abbs-Streets is a fan of London's "Magnificent Seven" Victorian cemeteries.

"It's not that green is good and gray is terrible," Abbs-Streets said. "The truth is that green and gray are just very different. Sometimes the difference is good." **–AP**

MIRRORLIGHTS

1 in 9 persons tested found positive for infectious disease in ICMR study

Pathogens were found in 11.1 per cent of the 4.5 lakh patients tested by the network of labs under the Indian Council of Medical Research as part of efforts to identify viral infections of public health significance.

The top five pathogens detected were Influenza A in acute respiratory infection (ARI)/ severe acute respiratory infections (SARI cases), dengue virus among acute fever and haemorrhagic fever cases, Hepatitis A in jaundice cases, Norovirus in among acute diarrheal disease (ADD) outbreaks and Herpes simplex virus (HSV) in Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) cases. The spread of infectious diseases rose from 10.7 per cent in the first quarter to 11.5 per cent in the second quarter of 2025, according to the report by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

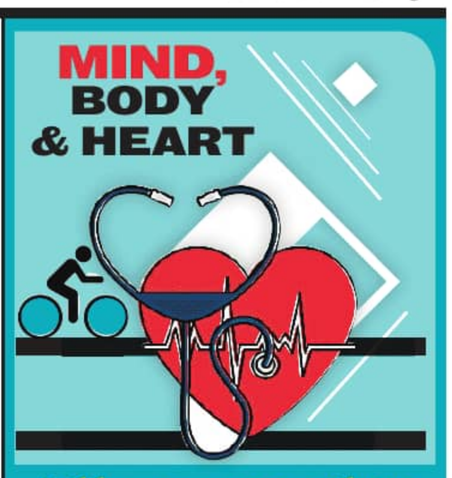
According to the Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDL) network of ICMR, between January and March, out of 2,28,856 samples, 24,502 (10.7 per cent) were found to contain pathogens from April to June 2025, 26,055 (11.5 per cent) out of 2,26,095 samples tested positive. Thus, the infection rate rose by 0.8 percentage points over the previous quarter, signalling the need for stronger monitoring of infection trends.

According to a senior scientist while this increase may not appear large, it should not be underestimated – it could serve as a warning for seasonal diseases and emerging infections.

If we continue tracking quarterly changes in infection rates, future epidemics could be prevented in time. The VRDL network acts as an early warning system for the country.

The ICMR report found that between April and June this year, 191 disease cluster were investigated and infectious diseases such as mumps, measles, rubella, dengue, chikungunya, rotavirus, norovirus, varicella zoster virus, Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) and astrovirus were identified.

Between January and March, 389 disease clusters were investigated and infectious diseases such as mumps, measles, rubella, hepatitis, dengue, chikungunya, rotavirus, influenza, Leptospira, Varicella zoster virus and Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) were identified. **–PTI**



All you need to know about...

Gut-friendly foods

Sauerkraut
Sauerkraut is finely shredded cabbage that's been fermented by lactic acid bacteria. It's rich in probiotics, vitamins C and K and fiber, making it excellent for digestive and immune health.
The natural fermentation process enhances the cabbage's nutritional value while promoting the growth of beneficial bacteria in your gut. Sauerkraut also supports better absorption of nutrients and may reduce bloating.

Kimchi
A staple in Korean cuisine, kimchi is a spicy and tangy fermented vegetable dish, usually made from cabbage, radishes, garlic and chili peppers. It's not only delicious but also packed with probiotics that promote gut health.
The fermentation process creates beneficial bacteria that aid digestion, support immunity, and improve nutrient absorption. Kimchi also contains antioxidants that help fight inflammation.

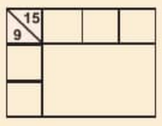
Kombucha
Kombucha is a fermented tea made using a symbiotic culture of bacteria and yeast (SCOBY). This fizzy, slightly tangy drink is packed with probiotics that promote healthy digestion and help detoxify the body.

Miso
Miso is a traditional Japanese seasoning made from fermented soybeans, salt and koji (a type of mold used in fermentation). This umami-rich paste is a source of beneficial bacteria and enzymes that support digestion and gut health.

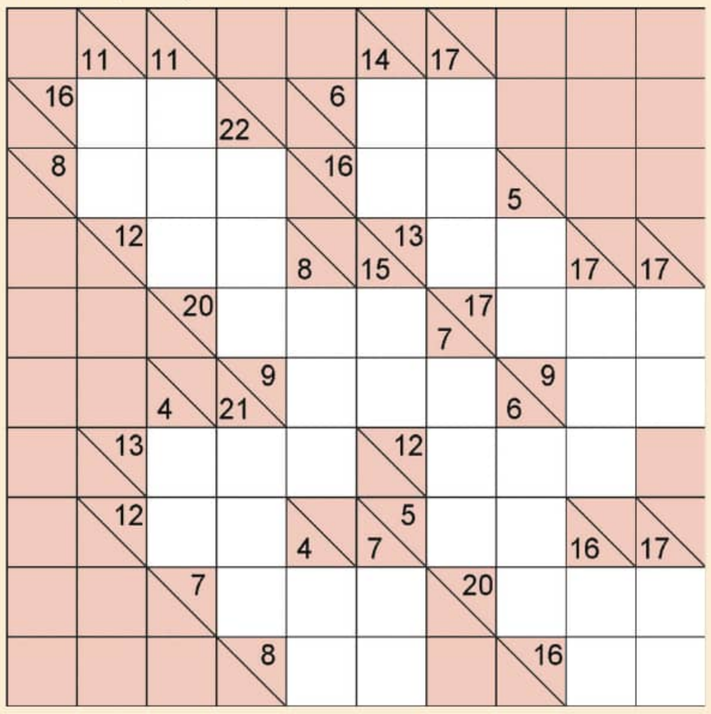
Pickles (Fermented Cucumbers)
Naturally fermented pickles, not the vinegar-based ones, are another excellent source of probiotics. When cucumbers are soaked in saltwater brine and left to ferment naturally, they develop beneficial bacteria that improve digestion and boost gut flora. Fermented pickles are also low in calories and rich in antioxidants. They can help reduce bloating and support nutrient absorption. **–Femina**

Kakuro

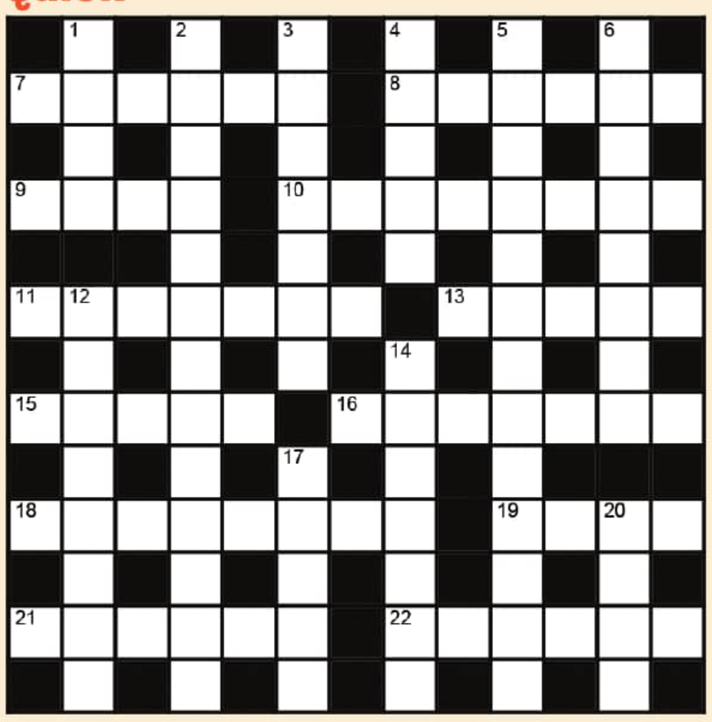
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 An apple (6)
8 Breads or pieces of bread (6)
9 Spanish surrealist painter (4)
10 Government building that offers a view of Ulsoor Lake on one side and the Bangalore Race Course on the other (4,4)
11 Neck of land (7)
13 All __ __ : as a whole? (2,3)
15 NW US state (5)
16 Worst possible situation (3,4)
18 Window in a roof (8)
19 Promise (4)
21 Match official (6)
22 Come forth (6)

DOWN

1 Baltic city (4)
2 Rising early (2,4,3,4)
3 Inspire with love (7)
4 Spanish beach (5)
5 Laundry requisite (7,6)
6 Failed utterly (4,4)
12 Robin to Batman? (8)
14 This controls the exposure when using a camera (7)
17 Ancient marketplace (5)
20 Indian music form (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Y EQUALS T

YOU YUWY QAC VOUYOUC AC GAY JAL TNG OADS N EAK WOALDS GAY KU YOU NCC-NGZUFUGY AQ JALC TOCA-FAWAFUW.

Linemaro

You must work in a newspaper because you just increased my circulation

Mindchow

The best of a book is not the thought which it contains, but the thought which it suggests; just as the charm of music dwells not in the tones but in the echoes of our hearts

Joke of the day

Man is the animal that intends to shoot himself out into interplanetary space, after having given up on the problem of an efficient way to get himself five miles to work and back each day

Loop

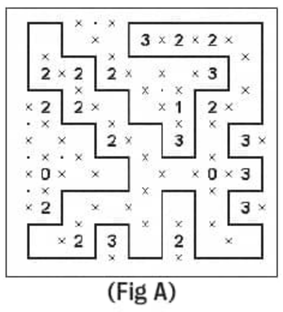
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

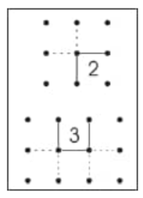
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

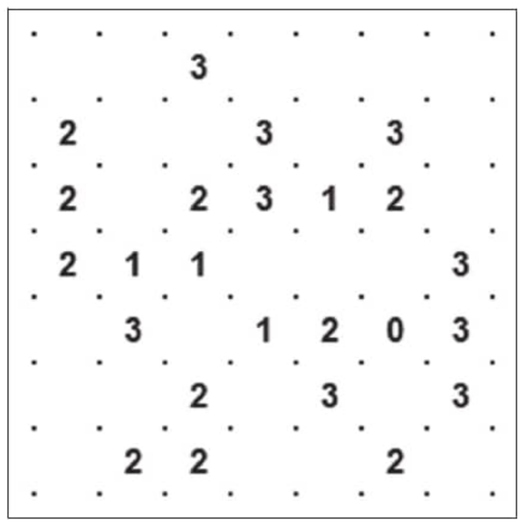
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



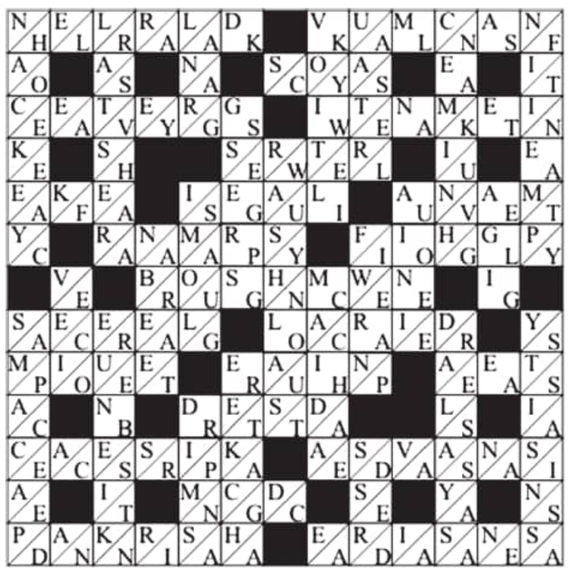
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



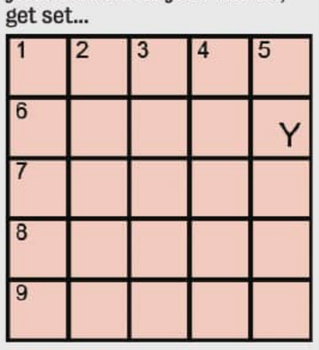
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Eruct; 6 RY all; 7 Re tut; 8 Me erg; 9 R bays

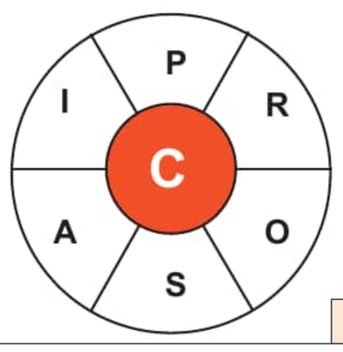
DOWN

1 Mr Cub; 2 Terra; 3 Lutra; 4 Ley eg.; 5 Treys

Mensapuzzle

Which number is missing from the chain?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

05 Average; **06** Good; **08** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

2						4		9
	7		4		3	8		
6		1			9			
					6		5	
	5	3		1		2	8	
	2		9					
			5			7		4
		5	8		7		9	
3		7						8

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 12

4 5 6 9

Medium

= 7

2 4 6 7

Hard

= 5

1 4 6 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

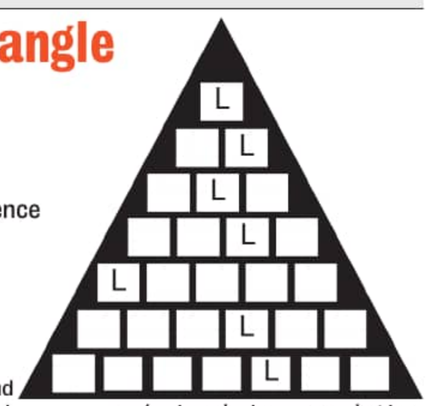
Differences: 1. Number is smaller. 2. Nose is smaller. 3. Arm is not showing. 4. Fence is added. 5. Mouth is different. 6. Leaves are added to tree.

Riddler

For each of the following, use the clue words to help you find three words that are linked to each other through their last two letters and first two letters of the subsequent word. The 1st word's last two letters are the same as the first two letters of the 2nd word, and the 2nd word's last two letters are the same as the first two letters of the 3rd word. **1.** flowing water / colour / oops **2.** priority / unusual / authentic

Alpha triangle

1 The 12th letter
2 Mr. Gore
3 Second choice
4 Stop
5 Fastener
6 Swiss Alps residence
7 Head garland

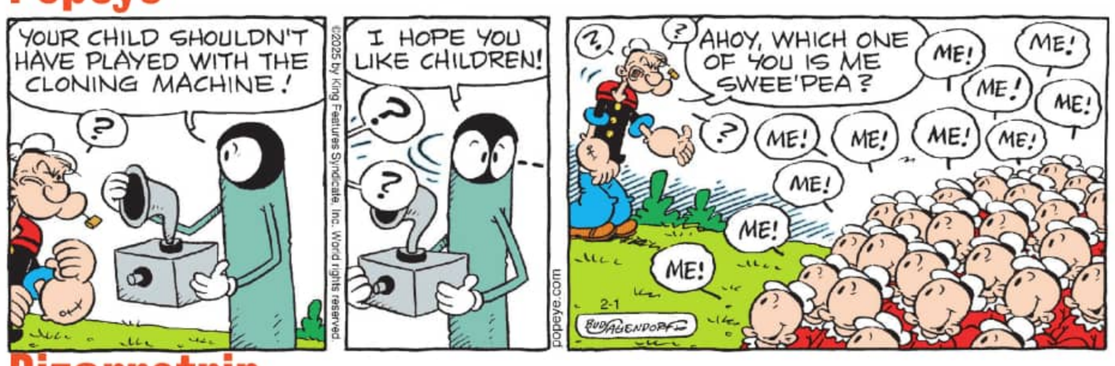


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


YOUR CHILD SHOULDN'T HAVE PLAYED WITH THE CLONING MACHINE!
I HOPE YOU LIKE CHILDREN!
AHOY, WHICH ONE OF YOU IS ME SWEE'PEA?
ME!
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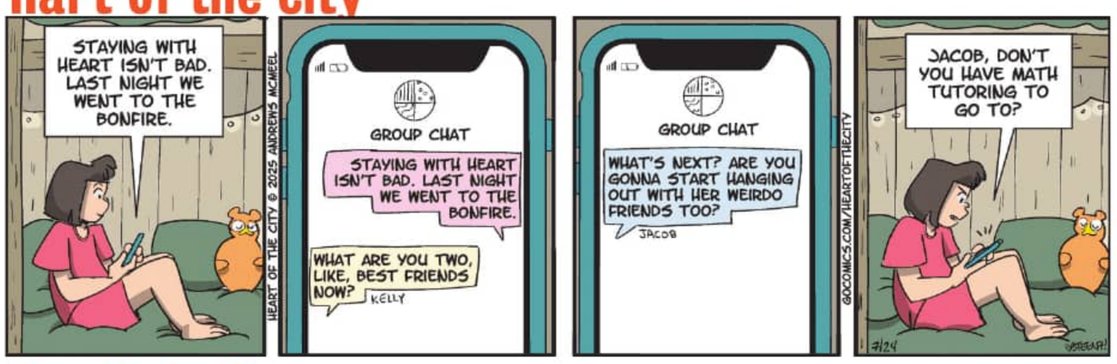
popeye.com
2-1
BUD ALLENDORF

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


STAYING WITH HEART ISN'T BAD. LAST NIGHT WE WENT TO THE BONFIRE.
GROUP CHAT
STAYING WITH HEART ISN'T BAD. LAST NIGHT WE WENT TO THE BONFIRE.
WHAT ARE YOU TWO, LIKE, BEST FRIENDS NOW? KELLY
WHAT'S NEXT? ARE YOU GONNA START HANGING OUT WITH HER WEIRDO FRIENDS TOO? JACOB
JACOB, DON'T YOU HAVE MATH TUTORING TO GO TO?
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

OKAY, I HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS AND SOME BAD NEWS ABOUT YOUR BLUE BOMBERS GAME T-SHIRT!
WHICH DO YOU WANT FIRST?
THE BAD NEWS!
ARE YOU SURE YOU WOULDN'T LIKE TO JUST SKIP OVER THE BAD NEWS AND GET RIGHT TO THE GOOD NEWS?
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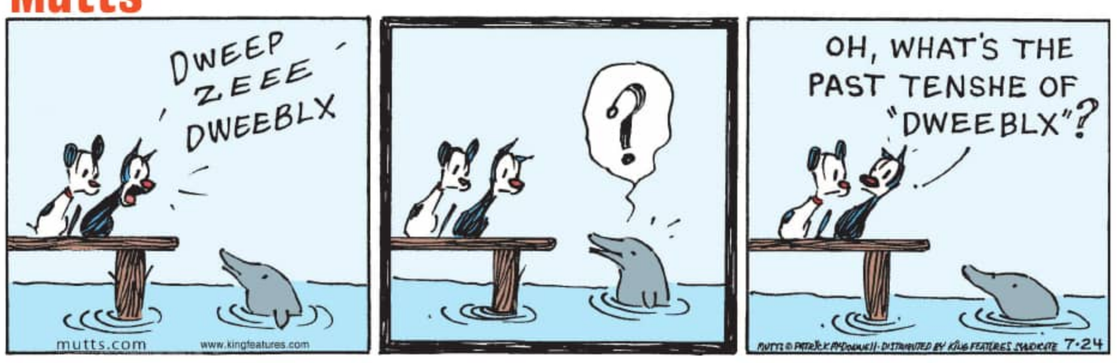
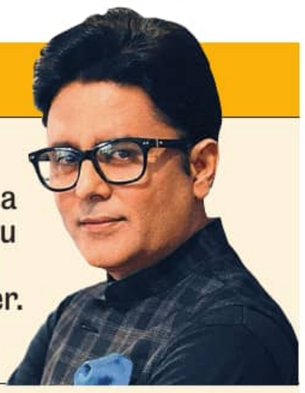
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
7-24

Mutts



WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

An unexpected financial windfall is possible midyear, perhaps through a successful career side venture. Love is passionate, demanding that you fully embrace vulnerability and absolute trust in your partner. Family matters require your attention in the winter, bringing loved ones closer. Personal growth is your most rewarding investment.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Chaos signals transformation, not defeat. Face emotions with courage and honesty in love. Speak openly about your desires and relationship goals; authentic communication deepens connection.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Manifestation energy surrounds you today. Focus your intention, release control, and trust divine timing. Promote your skills confidently while networking; the right people notice your light and align with your ambitions.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Step boldly into the spotlight and embrace imperfection. Release fear, own your truth, and explore freely. Growth comes from curiosity, not control; play, create, and rediscover joy in self-expression.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Redefine what success truly means for you. Honour lessons from past struggles, trust your vision, and take smart risks. Stepping beyond comfort invites abundance and newfound confidence in your journey.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Seek knowledge and guidance from mentors or studies that inspire growth. Expanding your wisdom enhances both personal and professional life. Today's insight plants the seeds for lasting success and progress.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Your awaited career breakthrough arrives; embrace it confidently. At home, lean on loved ones for grounding support. Sharing your worries lightens your spirit and strengthens emotional bonds through openness.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Endings clear space for new beginnings filled with love and promise. Trust intuition and welcome change gracefully. Focus on what's blooming, not fading; transformation brings renewal and emotional strength.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Prioritise health and emotional balance today. Establish a steady routine with mindful movement and nourishment. Self-care rejuvenates your focus, helping you thrive physically, mentally, and spiritually in the days ahead.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Release the past fully; it no longer defines you. Fresh opportunities call your name, especially in creativity. A shift in perspective brings inspiration, progress, and renewed passion for your path.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Harmony through teamwork leads to success. Though independence feels natural, collaboration today multiplies results. Guide others with patience and strength; your leadership inspires unity.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Reassess your habits and routines thoughtfully. Let go of what drains your potential. Discipline brings success, especially financially. Small, consistent improvements create lasting results and open doors to abundance.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

You hold the power to shape your destiny. Follow dreams fearlessly without seeking approval. Speak honestly with someone close; clarity strengthens relationships and empowers you to live authentically.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Rachel, Bengaluru

Ananya, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

256: ½
(2□)²: ¼
2□²: ¼
2¹

BULL'S EYE

aspic, carp, crisp, crop, plca, PROSAIC, scar, scrap

FAST FIVE

C	R	U	E	T
R	A	L	L	Y
U	T	T	E	R
M	E	R	G	E
B	R	A	Y	S

QUOTE UNCODE

The test for whether or not you can hold a job should not be the arrangement of your chromosomes.

STRIKE OUT

H	E	R	A	L	D		V	U	L	C	A	N		
O		A		A		C	O	S		A		I		
C	A	T	E	R	S		W	E	A	K	E	N		
K		H		E	W	E	R		I		E			
E	K	E		S	E	A	L		A	N	E	T		
Y		R	A	M	P	S		F	O	G	G	Y		
E		B	U	S	H	M	E	N		G				
S	C	R	A	G		O	A	R	E	D		S		
P	O	U	T		R	U	I	N		E	A	T		
A		B		R	E	T	D			L		A		
C	A	S	S	I	A		A	D	V	A	N	I		
E		I		M	C	C		E		Y		N		
D	A	N	I	S	H		A	R	I	S	E	S		

QUICK

							K							
						S	C	O	R	E				
							I							
						S	K	Y	L	I	G	H	T	
							E							
					I	D	A	H	O		T	H	E	
					I		T		R		S			
				I	S	T	H	M	U	S		I	N	A
					I		T							
				D	A	L	I		M	A	Y	O	H	A
					G		W		A		S		L	
				P	I	P	P	I	N		L	O	A	V
					R		U		E		P		W	
				K		K		A		R		R		A

MENSA PUZZLE

71. Add the first two numbers together to get the third, repeating around the grid.

RIDDLER

1. stream / amber / error &
2. first / strange / genuine

SUDOKU

3	9	7	6	4	2	5	1	8
4	1	5	8	3	7	6	9	2
8	6	2	5	9	1	7	3	4
7	2	6	9	5	8	1	4	3
9	5	3	7	1	4	2	8	6
1	8	4	3	2	6	9	5	7
6	4	1	2	8	9	3	7	5
5	7	9	4	6	3	8	2	1
2	3	8	1	7	5	4	6	9

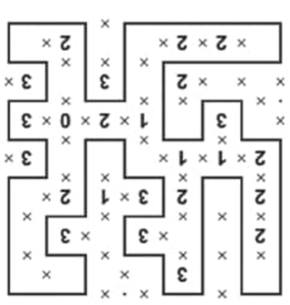
ALPHA TRIANGLE

L, Al, Alt, Halt, Latch, Chalet, Chapelet.

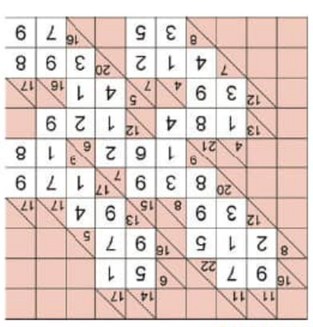
GO FIGURE

Easy
5 + 9 − 6 + 4 = 12
Medium
2 + 4 / 6 x 7 = 7
Hard
4 / 4 x 6 − 1 = 5

LOOP



KAKURO



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 # Versatile star
Allu Arjun named 'Most Versatile Actor of the Year' at Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2025

For all creatures big and small

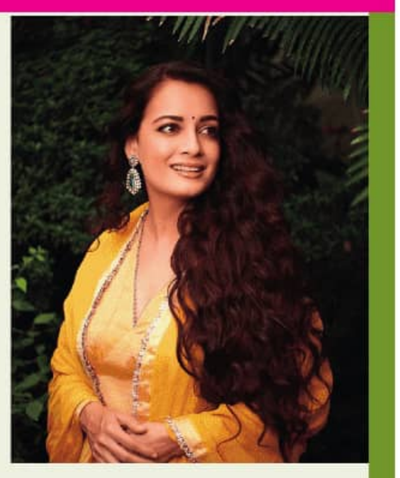
These actors are well known for their advocacy for animals

Riteish Deshmukh and Genelia D'Souza

Riteish Deshmukh, along with his wife Genelia D'Souza, co-founded a vegan meat company to promote plant-based diets. Their initiative aims to make cruelty-free eating more accessible and sustainable. The couple's joint efforts have earned them recognition from PETA India for championing a kinder lifestyle. Together, they continue to inspire a new generation of conscious consumers and compassionate eaters.

Jackie Shroff

Jackie Shroff, who shared the Most Beautiful Vegetarian Celebrity title with Zeenat Aman in 2023, has always promoted mindful living. Known for his love of animals, he often encourages others to adopt and care for strays. Jackie's down-to-earth nature and advocacy reflect his genuine concern for the welfare of all creatures. His compassion adds to his enduring charm as one of Bollywood's most beloved stars.



Dia Mirza

A passionate environmentalist, Dia Mirza has always balanced her advocacy for nature with her compassion for animals. She has worked with PETA India on multiple campaigns to raise awareness about cruelty prevention. Dia's voice has also been crucial in promoting eco-friendly lifestyles and sustainable choices. Her holistic approach beautifully combines environmental and animal welfare.

Alia Bhatt

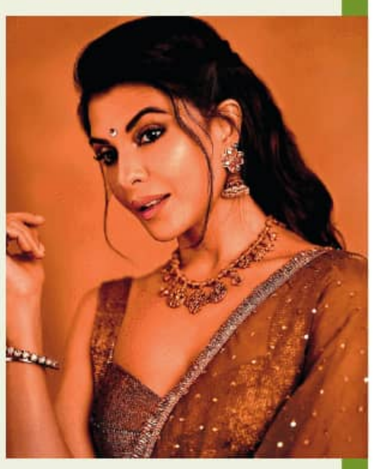
Crowned PETA India's Person of the Year in 2021, Alia Bhatt has become a strong advocate for animal-friendly causes. She encourages pet adoption and has promoted a culture of compassion toward stray dogs and cats. Beyond that, Alia supports sustainable fashion, having invested in vegan leather brands that aim to make cruelty-free style accessible. Her conscious lifestyle choices continue to inspire her massive fan base.

Shahid Kapoor

Shahid Kapoor has long supported a cruelty-free, plant-based lifestyle. A proud vegetarian himself, he often promotes veganism and its benefits for health, animals, and the planet. Shahid has also urged his followers to adopt animals rather than buy them. His quiet yet powerful influence continues to inspire many to embrace kinder living.

Anushka Sharma

Named PETA India's Person of the Year in 2017, Anushka Sharma has actively campaigned to protect animals, particularly street dogs during festive seasons involving firecrackers. She has also spoken out against the use of horses for pulling carriages in cities. Anushka's advocacy extends beyond statements—she regularly supports rescue initiatives and promotes awareness through social media. Her compassion reflects in her public and personal life alike.



Jacqueline Fernandez

Jacqueline Fernandez was recognized as PETA's Woman of the Year in 2014 and Most Beautiful Vegetarian Celebrity in 2024. She has starred in heartwarming pro-adoption campaigns and has been an outspoken advocate for veganism. Jacqueline also raised her voice against the cruel production of angora wool, which causes immense suffering to rabbits. Her cheerful persona and activism have made her a beloved voice for kindness.

Sonakshi Sinha

Awarded Person of the Year by PETA India in 2022, Sonakshi Sinha continues to promote vegan fashion and animal adoption. She has used her platform to write letters urging stronger animal protection laws and more humane treatment of strays. Sonakshi's initiatives reflect her empathy for all living beings. Her efforts contribute significantly to normalizing cruelty-free choices in mainstream fashion and entertainment. **– ETimes**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Get ready for The Task

The Task, directed by Raghu Shivamogga, is set to arrive in theaters on November 21. The teaser for Raghu's third directorial was unveiled recently. Additional Director General of Police M Chandrasekhar, Lahari Velu, directors Pawan Wadeyar, Simple Suni, Chetan, and Veerakaputra Srinivas were the guests of honour.

Chandrasekhar said the task means an operation or a mission in police parlance. "The Task is not only an entertainer but also conveys a message to society," said Chandrasekhar.

Appreciating the teaser, director Wadeyar said both heroes look good. "Most parents do not encourage their children to become actors but producer Rajesh supported his son to become a hero," said Wadeyar. Chetan said the teaser of the movie looks terrific and the director has given a task to audiences to guess the movie's story. "Both heroes are good. Raghu Shivamogga is a natural actor and as a director, he selects natural scripts," Chetan said.

Raghu said The Task is an action thriller based on real-life incidents.

Best wishes from CM

Chief Minister's Media Advisor K Prabhakar unveiled the trailer of Rona recently. The movie is scheduled for release on November 7 across the state. "Chief Minister Siddaramaiah watched the trailer and conveyed best wishes to the cast and crew. I also watched the trailer and it is very interesting. This movie gives a chance to prospective actors from rural areas. I wish the team good luck," Prabhakar said.

Rona is bankrolled by Raghu Raja under the BRK Productions banner. Sateesh Kumar debuts as a director in Sandalwood with this movie. "I am a mechanical engineer and held a job for six months. My passion towards movies made me quit the job. I have been associated with Sandalwood for nine years," said Kumar. The director said the movie revolves around politics in rural areas. "The story is quite different. It has themes of bonding between father and son, religion, politics, friendship, and love. We shot for 65 days in and around Hoskote and the movie has turned out well," the director said.